



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL STEPHEN M. TANOUS

Colonel Stephen M. Tanous is the Commandant of Squadron Officer College, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. As Commandant, he is responsible for annually developing 8,000 leaders who can advocate what 21st century Air, Space, and Cyberspace power brings to the fight, value team achievement over individual success, and value their vital role in the profession of arms. Both Air and Space Basic Course and Squadron Officer School fall within the college.

Colonel Tanous entered the Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program after graduating from the University of Colorado in 1984. Since then, he has served in various operational assignments, and has performed staff duties at Headquarters, Air Force Space Command; Headquarters, United States Air Force; and on the Joint Staff. Colonel Tanous has commanded the 4th Space Surveillance Squadron, Holloman AFB, N. M., and the 30th Maintenance and Operations Groups, Vandenberg AFB, Calif. In 2004, he deployed to Southwest Asia as Director of Space Forces for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Prior to assuming his current position, Colonel Tanous commanded the 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.



EDUCATION

1984 Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.
1987 Master of Business Administration degree in finance, University of Nebraska, Neb.
1989 Distinguished graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
1990 Top/distinguished graduate, Undergraduate Space Training, Lowry AFB, Colo.
1993 Master of Science degree in electrical engineering, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colo.
1996 Distinguished graduate, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
1998 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
2000 Air War College, by correspondence
2003 Commandant's Winner for Distinction in Research, Master in strategic studies, Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pa.
2005 Senior Executive Fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1984 - December 1987, electronic intelligence analyst/systems engineer, 544th Intelligence Exploitation Squadron, Offutt AFB, Neb.
2. January 1988 - December 1990, deep space operations officer, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
3. January 1991 - October 1992, crew commander, 1st Space Surveillance Squadron, Griffiss AFB, N. Y.
4. January 1992 - October 1993, Chief, Operations Training, 1st Space Surveillance Squadron, Griffiss AFB, N. Y.

5. October 1993 - July 1995, Chief, Special Programs and Plans, 14th Air Force, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
6. July 1995 - June 1996, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
7. July 1996 - June 1997, Joint Requirements Oversight Council Coordinator, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations, Headquarters United States Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington, D. C.
8. June 1997 - January 1998, space policy and programs officer, Joint Staff J3, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
9. January 1998 - March 1999, Executive Officer to the Deputy Director for Information Operations, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D. C.
10. April 1999 - June 2000, information operations policy and plans officer, Joint Staff J3, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
11. July 2000 - June 2002, Commander, 4th Space Surveillance Squadron, Holloman AFB, N.M.
12. July 2002 - June 2003, student, Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pa.
13. July 2003 - December 2003, Commander, 30th Operations Group and Commander 30th Maintenance Group, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
14. July 2003 - June 2005, Commander, 30th Operations Group, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
15. July 2004 - October 2004, Director of Space Forces, US Central Command Air Forces, Al Udeid AB, Qatar
16. June 2005 - March 2007, Vice Commander, 21st Space Wing, Peterson AFB, Colo.
17. March 2007 - July 2008, Commander, 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
18. July 2008 - Present, Commandant, Squadron Officer College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

BADGE INFORMATION

Command Space Badge

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Joint Service Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terror Service Medal
Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with five oak leaf clusters
Air Force Training Ribbon

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2001 Air Force Space Command Installation Excellence Award, 4th Space Surveillance Squadron
2001 Air Force Space Command General Maurice Padden Award, 4th Space Surveillance Squadron
2001 Lance P. Sijan Award, 21st Space Wing
2004 Lt Gen Claire Chennault Award, 30th Operations Group, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant - May 25, 1984
First Lieutenant - Aug. 2, 1986
Captain - Aug. 2, 1988
Major - Dec. 1, 1995
Lieutenant Colonel - Sep. 1, 1998
Colonel - July 1, 2003

(Current as of September 2008)